

**Aroussi, S., 2020. Researching wartime rape in Eastern Congo: why we should continue to talk to survivors?. *Qualitative Research*, 20(5), pp.582-597.**

- Aroussi used self-reflexive meta-analysis within her research to assess and improve her research processes.  
Discuss how this impacted her research and whether you feel this is something you could incorporate into your own current or future research.
- The author sees going beyond her academic role and being more 'human' as of fundamental importance.  
To what extent do you agree with this viewpoint and what is your assessment of the particular ways she did this, for example advocating on behalf of research participants or showing empathy through physical contact.

**Cordisco Tsai, L., 2018. Conducting research with survivors of sex trafficking: Lessons from a financial diaries study in the Philippines. *British Journal of Social Work*, 48(1), pp.158-175.**

- Many studies don't allow for repeated meeting and the development of long-term relationships with participants. This hinders trust-building which is especially problematic when vulnerable participants are, like those in Cordisco-Tsai's study, apprehensive about making certain disclosures.  
Have you had experiences such as this or do you anticipate this to be a problem? How do you feel this problem could be minimized when time will not allow for relationship-building?
- Cordisco-Tsai describes how participants in this study became confused about the role of interviewers, either because the interviewer/friend boundary had become blurred, or because they were confused by the involvement of a gatekeeping organisation.  
How can such confusion be anticipated in advance and appropriately dealt with, so as to ensure the greatest possible care for both parties?

**Indah, R., 2018. Probing problems: Dilemmas of conducting an ethnographic study in a disaster-affected area. *International journal of disaster risk reduction*, 31, pp.799-805.**

- Indah states: '*...my positionalities and experiences have enabled me to stand as an insider as well as outsider in relation to the research context and participants...*' (p801)  
Reflect on how your own positionality has impacted or may impact your research.
- Consider the merits of the CARE (comfort, acceptance, responsiveness, empathy) communication strategy (Platt et al, 2004) which Indah cites.  
How do you think conducting research during current Covid-related restrictions may inhibit this approach?
- Indah writes...'*I pushed myself hard to actively plan a self-care protocol and build a connection with people who could provide a robust support system, in order to prevent something like secondary traumatic stress (STS)*' (p.802)  
What are your own experiences in self-care planning and to what extent have you been facilitated in self-care strategies?

**Jeftić, A., 2020. 'I Was Close to Them': Re-experiencing War through Trauma-based Interviews. *Social Epistemology*, 34(1), pp.79-85.**

- Jeftić concedes that her risk of vicarious trauma was increased and more complicated due to her having experienced the same trauma her participants experienced. Because of this, she reports feeling an urge to 'look for a parallel' between her interviewees' and her own

narrative about the war. She ultimately recognises that her choice of doctoral research topic was a process of managing her own trauma.

Discuss the implications of investigating traumatic topics of which one has personal experience and how you felt she dealt with this.

- The author cites Baumeister (1997, 2012) who claimed that '*the attempt to understand the perpetrators' perspective risks seeing their crimes as less heinous and the perpetrators as less responsible for the crimes*' (p.81). However, Jeftić's approach (or rationalisation?) was to seek only the subjective narrative of the 'perpetrators' she interviewed and not to evaluate their action.

Might this approach be applied more broadly or can you suggest other approaches to best cognitively deal with conducting research with the perpetrators -as opposed to the victims-of trauma?

**Moran, R.J. and Asquith, N.L., 2020. Understanding the vicarious trauma and emotional labour of criminological research. *Methodological Innovations*, 13(2), p.2059799120926085.**

- The concept of 'emotional labour' is central to this paper, specifically in discussing '*emotion regulation and selective expression during empathetic engagement*' (p.2). The authors emphasise that this labour must not be performative but authentic with the 'witness' journeying empathetically with the victim.  
Discuss this viewpoint and the implications of such an approach on researchers.
- The authors frame the researcher/participant interaction as unique in that it involves a process of witnessing and recognition, which can be 'a form of justice-doing' (p.4), and potentially transformative.  
Reflect on the extent to which you can effectively 'bear witness' in your research.

**Sikic Micanovic, L., Stelko, S. and Sakic, S., 2020. Who else Needs Protection? Reflecting on Researcher Vulnerability in Sensitive Research. *Societies*, 10(1), p.3.**

- Sikic Micanovic et al write that emotional threats, risk and management can be '*methodologically productive*' (p.2) if acknowledged and utilised appropriately, for example to create greater knowledge or understanding around the research topic.  
Consider how any such emotional challenges you have or may face in research can be re-framed as opportunities for greater research quality and/or growth as a researcher.
- This paper sets out a number of operational and emotional strategies for managing researcher vulnerability when conducting sensitive research, for example limiting the number of interviews per week, self and team debriefing, and keeping a reflexive diary.  
Which of the strategies described in this paper have you used, or do you plan to use? Which do you feel are most feasible? Which do you think will yield the most success?

**Taylor, S. (2019) The long shadows cast by the field: violence, trauma, and the ethnographic researcher. *Fennia* 197(2) 183–199.**

- Taylor writes of the institutional downplaying or silencing of emotional repercussions for researchers post-fieldwork, and discipline-wide '*methodological silences*' (p.184) regarding the emotional challenges of certain types of fieldwork.  
Reflect on any experiences you may have of this.
- According to Taylor, the '*masculinist epistemology of the discipline* (of geography)' (p.185) frames emotion as an out-of-place feminine weakness.  
To what extent do you think this holds true for your research discipline?